

VISION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING, WED. OCT.1, 2008  
MINUTES

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- Present: Kirk Hazlett, Sara Oaklander, Jennifer Page, Al Rubin, Paul Solomon
- Also present as guests: Joanne Coakley, Martin Duffy, Adriana Poole
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- The chair convened the meeting at 7:00pm in the Flett Room of the Library.
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- After remarks welcoming the guests, the minutes of the Sept.11, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.
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- OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS:
- MEET BELMONT: Jennifer Page noted that the current bulletin of the League of Women Voters includes a description of the League's participation in the recent Meet Belmont event. The League recruited new members, and distributed information about the league, and about running for Town Meeting Member.
- Sara Oaklander stated that she would invite to our next meeting on Oct.23, 10 residents who expressed interest in working on the next Meet Belmont event. She will also invite 3 additional residents who helped with this year's event.
- WALKING FORUM: the date of our next meeting (Oct.23) conflicts with the date of the Walking Forum, which we have agreed to co-sponsor. After some discussion, it was decided not to change our meeting date, but to apologize to Anne Paulsen, the Forum organizer, for our lack of attendance at the Forum. The site of our next meeting will be changed.
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- CIVIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE:
- Paul Solomon stated that one of the motivations for The Selectmen's creation of a Government Structure Review Committee was to increase the involvement of citizens in town government.
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- It was agreed that the first order of business was to define civic engagement, and the scope of our initiative.
- After considerable discussion, civic engagement was defined as involvement in Town government, which includes all activities from voting to running for town-wide office.
- This is different than community engagement, which includes participation in non-governmental community groups. It was agreed that community organizations could be very helpful in promoting civic engagement.
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- Issues and questions raised on this topic during the rest of the meeting included:
- What motivates people to be involved?
- What are the barriers to involvement (see minutes of July 16, 2008 meeting)?
- If we want residents to be involved, give them a reason
- Government needs more transparency

- Listening should be part of the initiative
- Raise town issues at block parties
- Use focus groups, as the library did for plans for a new building
- Use young people for employing newer techniques of communicating
- Belmont's residents are a great resource, but many cannot meet twice monthly
- People are busy-it is easier to have opinions than responsibility
- We must have specific measurable goals for this initiative
- We should tell people what is better about Belmont.
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- The meeting adjourned at 9pm.
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- Respectfully submitted,
- Paul Solomon
- Secretary, Pro Tem
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